

Iowa Department on Aging

Director Donna Harvey

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Iowa Department on Aging Invites Iowans to Celebrate November as National Caregiver Month

*There are over 285,000 Family Caregivers in Iowa
Iowa Family Caregivers Give Approximately 319 Million Hours of Care Annually*

(Des Moines, IA) Iowa Department on Aging Director Donna Harvey invites Iowans to celebrate Iowa's caregivers whom serve a vital role in their families' wellbeing, as well as the health and long term care of the nation.

"Family caregivers deserve our appreciation and support. They work tirelessly in the provision of needed care and their dedication helps vulnerable older adults and family members experiencing a disability," Director Harvey stated.

*It is estimated that the economic impact of family caregiving in the United States is over 450 billion dollars annually.

Harvey continued, "Family caregiving often times is stressful physically, emotionally and financially so it is essential that our family caregivers are supported with a broad menu of long term living and community support services."

Iowa's Aging and Disability Resource Center's partner with area agencies on aging and the disability community to offer a vast array of services and supports to older Iowans, caregivers, adults experiencing a mental illness or experiencing a disability. Together they serve as an entry point to a network of services with the goal of ensuring that the services available are easy to find and access. For information on what supports and services are available for caregivers call the **Iowa Family Caregiver Program** toll-free at: 1-866-468-7887 or go to the website: www.iowafamilycaregiver.org. To find out how to connect to additional resources for Iowa's aging and disability community, visit: www.lifelonglinks.org.

For more information on the Iowa Department on Aging (IDA) go to: www.aging.iowa.gov or call: 1-800-532-3213.

The mission of the Iowa Department on Aging is to develop a comprehensive, coordinated and cost-effective system of long-term living and community support services that help individuals maintain health and independence in their homes and communities.

*2009 Caregiving in the U.S. report from the National Alliance for Caregiving in collaboration with AARP.

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